

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Canceled claims have been canceled without prejudice.

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 4 and 5 without prejudice.

1. (Original) An adhesive protein comprising an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6.
2. (Original) The adhesive protein of Claim 1, wherein the adhesive protein further comprises a peptide for improving a physicochemical property of the adhesive protein which is attached to a carboxy- and/or amino-termini of the protein.
3. (Original) The adhesive protein of Claim 2, wherein the physicochemical property is selected from the group consisting of solubility, adhesion force, cross-linking, and improvement in protein expression, purification, and recovery rate.
- 4-5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The adhesive protein of Claim 2, wherein the peptide is an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 25 tandemly repeated 1 to 10 times.
7. (Original) The adhesive protein of Claim 6, wherein the adhesive protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 10, an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12, and an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 14.
8. (Original) The adhesive protein of Claim 2, wherein the peptide comprises 6 histidine residues.
9. (Original) The adhesive protein of Claim 8, wherein the adhesive protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID

NO: 16, an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 18, an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 20, and an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 22.

10. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an adhesive protein according to Claim 1.

11. (Withdrawn) The polynucleotide of Claim 10, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the adhesive protein comprises a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 5.

12. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the adhesive protein according to Claim 2 wherein a peptide for improving a physicochemical property of the adhesive protein is attached to a carboxy- and/or amino-termini of the adhesive protein consisting of an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 6.

13. (Withdrawn) The polynucleotide of Claim 12, wherein the peptide is an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 25 tandemly repeated 1 to 10 times.

14. (Withdrawn) The polynucleotide of Claim 13, wherein a nucleotide sequence encoding the peptide is selected from the group consisting of nucleotide sequences shown in SEQ ID Nos: 26 to 31 tandemly repeated 1 to 10 times.

15. (Withdrawn) The polynucleotide of Claim 13, wherein the polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 9, a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 11, and a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 13.

16. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the adhesive protein according to Claim 8.

17. (Withdrawn) The polynucleotide of Claim 16, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the adhesive protein is selected from the group consisting of a nucleotide sequence as shown in

SEQ ID NO: 15, a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 17, a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 19, and a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 21.

18. (Withdrawn) A vector that comprises operably a nucleotide sequence encoding an adhesive protein according to Claim 7.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) A transformant transformed with the vector according to Claim 18, wherein the transformant is selected from the group consisting of prokaryotes, eukaryotes, and eukaryote-derived cells.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (Withdrawn) The transformant of Claim 21, wherein the eukaryote-derived cells are selected from the group consisting of plant cells, insect cells, and mammalian cells.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an adhesive protein comprising the steps of:  
(a) constructing a vector that comprises operably a nucleotide encoding the adhesive protein according to Claim 1;  
(b) constructing a transformant by transforming the vector into a host cell; and  
(c) producing recombinant adhesive protein by culturing the transformant.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 25, wherein the adhesive protein further comprises a peptide for improving a physicochemical property of the adhesive protein attached to a carboxy- and/or amino-termini of the protein.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 26, wherein the physicochemical property is selected from the group consisting of solubility, adhesion force, cross-linking, and improvement in protein expression, purification, and recovery rate.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 26, wherein the peptide is derived from an adhesive protein.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 28, wherein the adhesive protein is derived from a mussel adhesive protein.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 26, wherein the peptide is an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 25 tandemly repeated 1 to 10 times.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 30, wherein the adhesive protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 10, an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 12, and an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 14.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 32, wherein the adhesive protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 16, an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 18, an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 20, and an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 22.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of purifying adhesive protein comprising the steps of:

- (a) lysing the transformant according to Claim 21, and then centrifuging it to isolate each of the supernatant and pellet;
- (b) making a suspension by adding acidic organic solvent to the pellet and suspending it; and
- (c) centrifuging the suspension to isolate the supernatant.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, wherein the acidic organic solvent has a pH of 3 to 6.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, wherein the acidic organic solvent is one or more selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, and lactic acid.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 36, wherein the acetic acid is a 5 to 30 (v/v) % aqueous solution.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 34, wherein gel filtration chromatography is further carried out on the supernatant of step (c).

39. (Previously presented) An adhesive comprising an adhesive protein according to Claim 7 as an active component.

40. (Original) The adhesive of Claim 39, wherein 5 % to 100 % of the total number of tyrosine residues in the adhesive protein is modified to 3,4-dihydroxyphenyl-L-alanine (DOPA).

41. (Original) The adhesive of Claim 39, wherein the adhesive adheres to a substrate selected from the group consisting of plastic, glass, metal, eukaryotic cells, prokaryotic cells, and plant cell walls and lipids.

42. (Original) The adhesive of Claim 39, wherein the adhesive is applied to biological sample.

43. (Original) The adhesive of Claim 39, wherein the adhesive further comprises one or more material selected from the group consisting of surfactant, oxidant, and filler.

44-45. (Canceled)

46. (Original) The adhesive of Claim 43, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of collagen, hyaluronic acid, chondroitin sulfate, elastine, laminin, casein, hydroxyapatite, and albumin, fibronectin, and hyaluron.

47. (Original) The adhesive of Claim 39, wherein the adhesive is applied to substrates used in an underwater environment.

48. (Original) A method of adjusting the adhesion force of the adhesive according to Claim 39, wherein the method comprises a step of treating with a substance selected from the group consisting of oxidant, filler, and surfactant, or a step of controlling the concentration of the adhesive protein which is an active component of the adhesive.

49. (Previously presented) A coating agent containing an adhesive protein according to Claim 7 as an active component.